EXPLORATION OF THE LEBANESE NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

SMART WAYS LEBANON BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Tripoli
Beddaoui
Enfe
Hamat
Bala-mand
Koura
Ras Chekka
Amioun
Wadi Kadisha
Mseilha
Maad
Byblos
Yanouh
Afqa
Mnaitra
Nahr Ibrahim
Assi River
Baalbek
Jeita
Beirut
Niha
Chtoura
Terbol
Majdal Anjar
Amiq
Beiteddin
Nabaa Anjar
Anjar
Deir al Qamar
Chhim
Khirbet Qanafar
Sidon
Jezzine
Rashaya
Maghdoucheh
Nabatieh
Marjeyoun
Tyre
Qana
Tebnine



















Lebanon Network of Historical Cities by the Umayyad Route

Presented by Dr. Rachid Chamoun,
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Advisor to the Lebanese Minister of Tourism representing Lebanon to the EPA - The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
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Egypt

Italy

Jordan
Lebanon

Portugal

Spain

Tunisia

EXPLORATION OF THE LEBANESE NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

SMART WAYS LEBANON BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

The UMAYYAD Route is a European Neighborhood Program Initiative–Cross Border Collaboration in the Mediterranean (ENPI-CBC MED) aimed at promoting sustainable tourism based an itinerary between the seven countries of the first Islamic Dynasty, the Umayyad Dynasty.

The project involves 14 partners from Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, Portugal, Spain and Italy. In Lebanon, the partners are the Lebanese American University (LAU), Byblos Municipality and the Safadi Foundation in collaboration with the ministries of Culture and Tourism.

Canaanites & Amorites: 2300 BC,
Egyptians-Hittites: 1350 BC,
Phoenicians: 1100 BC,
Assyrians-Babylonian Empire: 877 BC,
Persian Empire: 539 BC,
Roman Empire: 64 BC,
Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire: 395,
The Islamic World: 635,
The Umayyad: 661,
The Abbasids: 750,
The Rein of the Fatimids: 969,
The Seljuks and the First Crusades: 1090,
Latin Crusader States: 1150,
The Mameluke States 1291,
The Ottoman Empire1516,
The French Mandate 1920,
The Independent State, 1943



Map of the Umayyad Route

Umayyad Banner – Country Partners


Egypt


Italy


Jordan


Lebanon

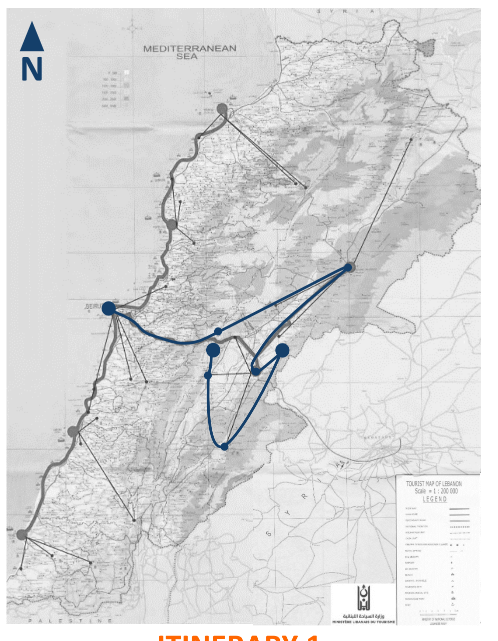

Portugal


Spain


Tunisia

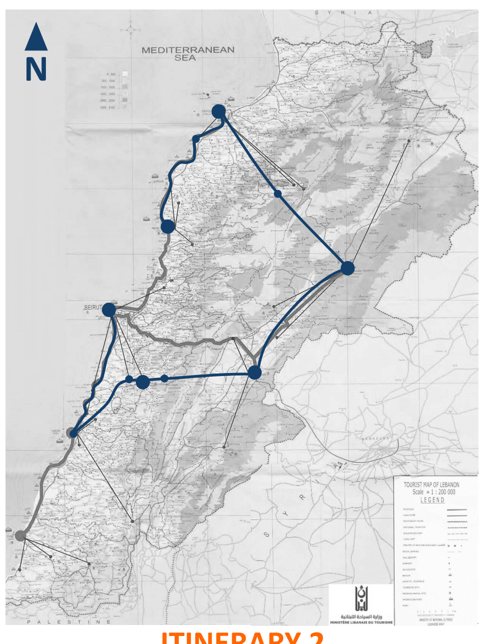
EXPLORATION OF THE LEBANESE NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

UMAYYAD ROUTE - SMART WAYS - LEBANESE ITINIRARY



ITINERARY 1

A route towards the interior of Lebanon



ITINERARY 2

A Route towards the Interior and the coastal line

ITINERARY 1	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Chtaura – Baalbek – Anjar – Hima Kfar Zabad **DAY 2:** Rashaya Al-Wadi – Kefraya – Taanayel ecolodge
ITINERARY 2	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Sidon – Deir El-Qamar – Beiteddine **DAY 2:** Maaser Chouf – Anjar **DAY 3:** Baalbek **DAY 4:** Bcharri – Tripoli **DAY 5:** Anfeh – Jbeil

Instructions:

- Click on the **orange text** in order to take you to the desired slide (itinerary – details of a specific temple), poster of a specific city, webpage link, panoramic views, videos, google maps, etc…
- Click on **the map of Lebanon** to take you back to this slide, where the options of several itineraries are shown.

Recommendation:

- Watch the video ***"Rise Above Lebanon"*** to get a general picture of Lebanon before starting the Lebanese itinerary.

Umayyad Banner - Lebanese Cities

RISE ABOVE LEBANON









Views taken from the video "Rise Above Lebanon"

Rise Above Lebanon (video)

Commissioned by the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism, this video is about filming Lebanon from above, including its rural, urban, cultural touristic and historical location, as well as the amazing number of festivals.

This video covers several parts of Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, Beirut, Southern Lebanon, the Beqaa, Baalbek and North Lebanon. Amazing support was received from the Ministry of Tourism, as well as the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Defense, the Lebanese Air Force and the Lebanese Army Intelligence.

The idea is to show ***Lebanon's beauty, diversity and wealth from another angle***, in order to encourage and promote international and domestic tourism.

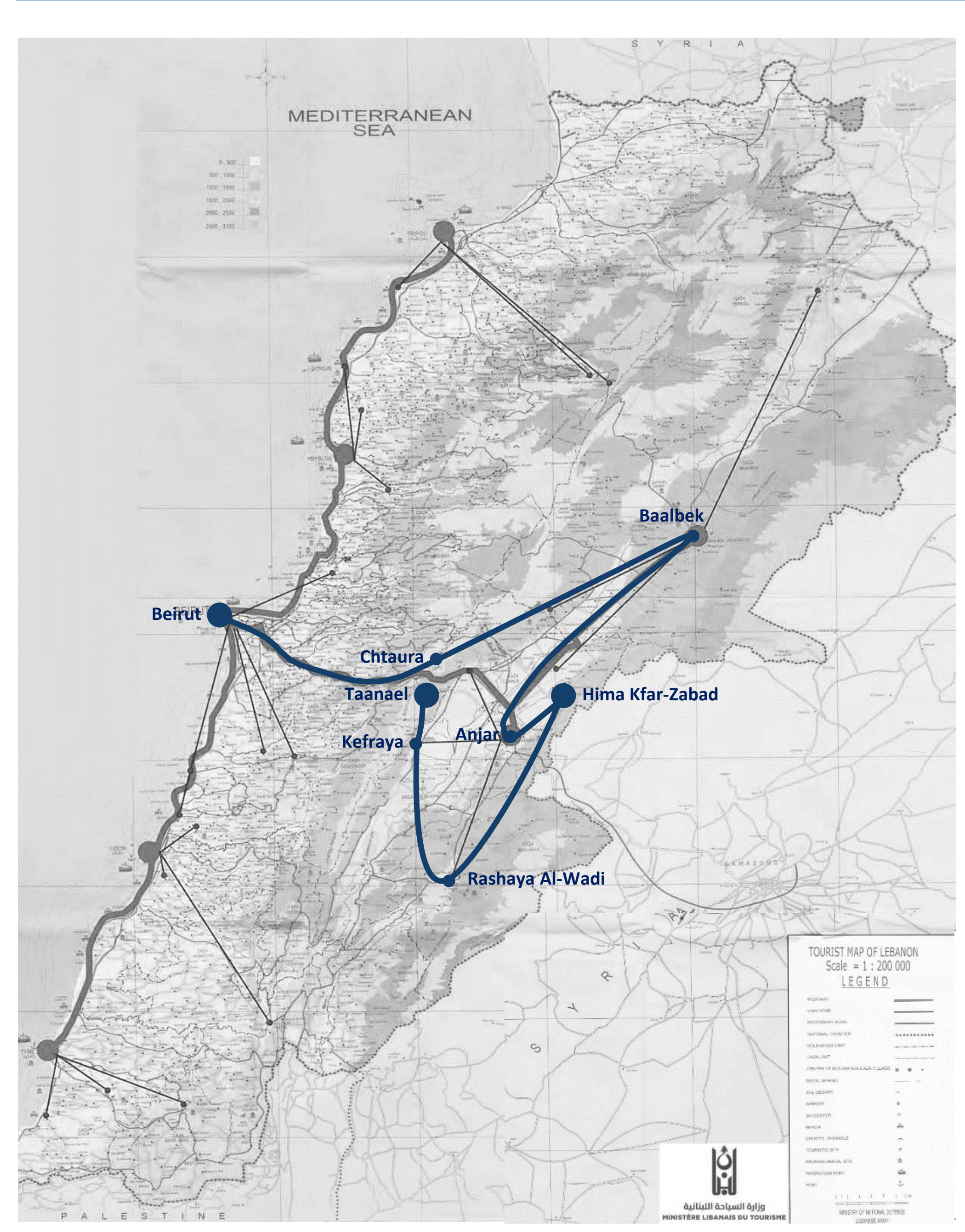
Producer: Two Wheels Across
Director/DOP: Christian Ghammachi
Editing: Sebastien Leclercq
Music and Sound Design: Karim Khneisser



Back to *"Phoenicians' Route – Smart Ways – Lebanese Itineraries"*

EXPLORATION OF THE LEBANESE NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

ITINERARY 1 – *A Route towards the Interior of Lebanon*



This itinerary is composed of 2 days; starting from Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, and ending in Taanayel, in the Beqaa. Passing by several cities and villages as per the table below.

ITINERARY 1	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Chtaura – Baalbek – Anjar – Kfar-Zabad **DAY 2:** Rashaya Al-Wadi – Kefraya – Taanayel

ITINERARY 1 – DAY 1: Beirut – Chtaura – Baalbek – Anjar – Hima Kfar-Zabad

It is an itinerary that starts from Beirut to Hima Kfar Zabad; as a first stop and a sleep-over for DAY 1.

Passing by Chtaura, Baalbek, and Anjar, several places can be discovered such as:

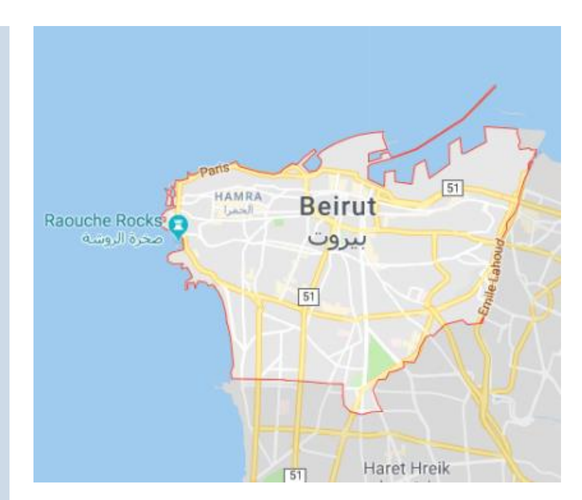
- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Natural reserves

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table

BEIRUT

BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mameluke, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.

Videos are ©Mr. Bahij Hojeij



Map of Beirut



Location of Beirut



© Ministry of Tourism

Beirut Aerial View



© Ministry of Tourism

Beirut National Museum (watch video)



© Beirut National Library

Beirut National Library (watch video)

BEIRUT

Visits

- Al-Umari Mosque of Beirut – interior panoramic view
- Beirut National Museum – interior panoramic views: 1 – 2 - 3
- AUB Archaeological Museum
- Heliopolis
- Lebanese Prehistoric Museum
- Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum – exterior panoramic view
- The Grand Serail (interior panoramic view – exterior panoramic view) / Roman Baths Garden – panoramic view
- Amir Assaf Mosque
- Al-Omari Mosque/St. John The Baptist Cathedral
- Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque - interior panoramic view
- Saint George Maronite Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Saint Georges Greek Orthodox Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Nejmeh Square/Abed Clock Tower
- Martyr's Square/Statue of the Martyr's
- Wadi Abu Jamil and The Maghen Abraham
- A Walk in Gourand Street
- Garden of Forgiveness, Archaeological Area

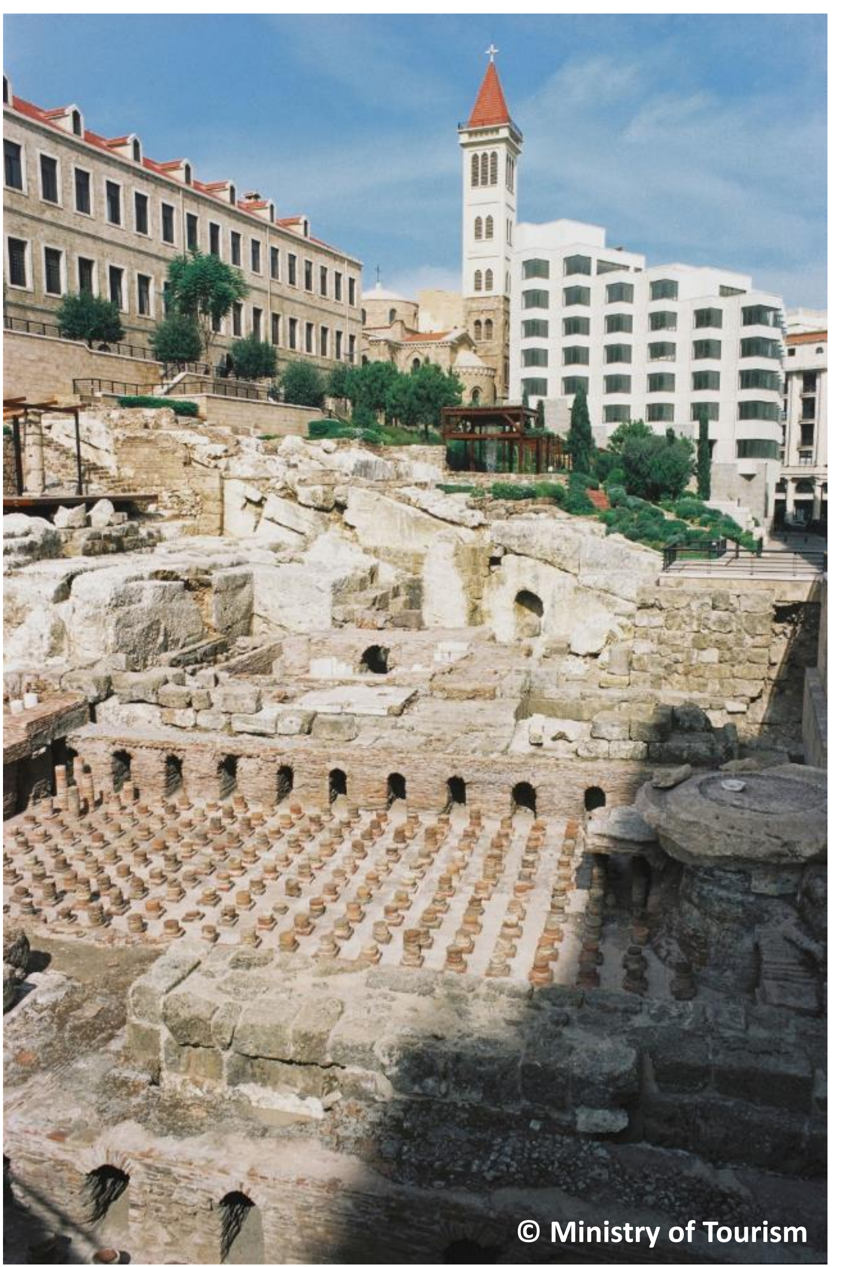
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum (watch video)



Al-Omari Mosque



Roman Baths

BEIRUT

- **Gastronomy**

Beirut has many restaurants, bars and cafes with excellent local and international cuisine. It is also known for its vibrant nightlife with a host of restaurants, bars, pubs and clubs clustered mainly in the Hamra, Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael and Badaro neighborhoods (panoramic view: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5).

Traditional Lebanese cuisine is known for its *mezze*, a myriad of small dishes that are served as tapas before the main meal. Beirut also has a considerable Armenian community and offers a range of high quality Armenian restaurants.

- **Accommodation**
    - Plaza Hotel in Hamra

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



The Corniche, Beirut

CHTAURA

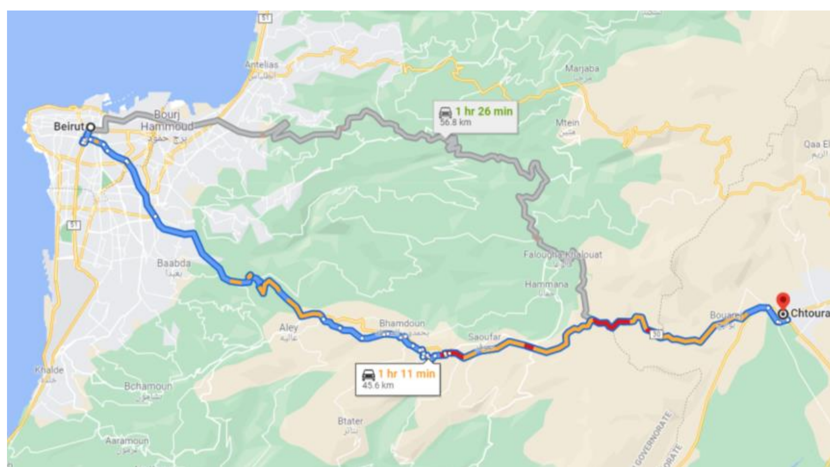
CHTAURA is the valley's hub for banking, transportation, and commerce, hotels, restaurants and (wineries since 1868).



Map of Chtaura



Location of Chtaura



Road map from Beirut to Chtaura

Domaine des Tourelles Winery

CHTAURA

Visits

Wineries and factories since 1868:

- Domaine des Tourelles Winery
- Chateau Nakad
- Chateau Khoury
- Arak Touma Factory



Chtaura wineries

BAALBEK

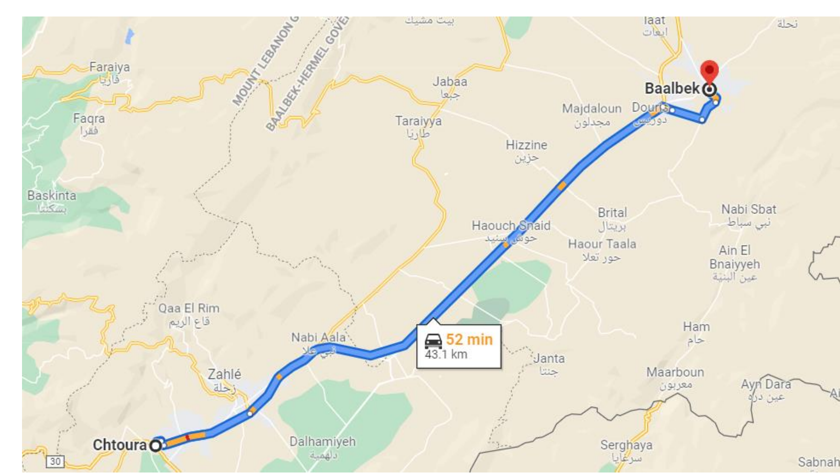
BAALBEK, founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Map of Baalbek



Location of Baalbek



Road map from Chtaura to Baalbek



Temple of Jupiter



Cella of the temple of Bacchus

BAALBEK

Visits

- Three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury. Panoramic views of several monuments (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6) and stone of the pregnant woman – panoramic view
- Heliopolis
- The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque
- Qubbat Al Sa’idayn
- Qubbat Douris
- Ras El Ain Spring
- Ras Al Imam Al Hussein Mosque
- Al Barbara Mosque
- The Shrine of Al Sayyida Khawla - panoramic view
- Cathedral of Fakieh – panoramic view
- Our Lady of Beshwet – panoramic views (1 – 2)





Temple of Bacchus



Temple of Venus

The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque

BAALBEK

- **Gastronomy**

Baalbek is known for its small meat-only pizza, known as *Sfiha*, which is on sale in several bakeries in town. Homemade products are also available such as *koshk*, a granulated dry material made from cracked wheat dough and yogurt.

- **Accommodation**

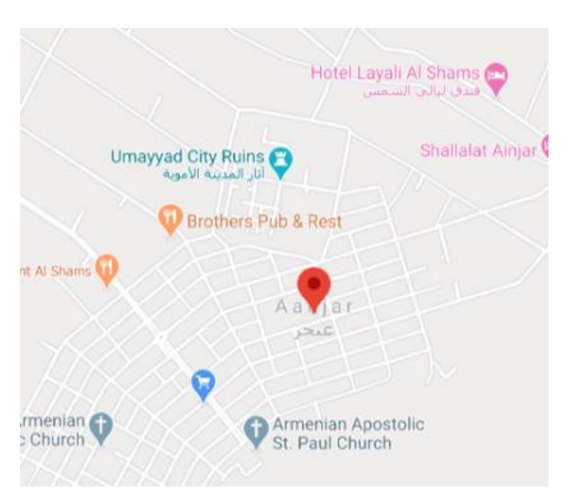


A kind environment to have lunch in Baalbek

ANJAR

ANJAR, was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shone for only 20-30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city.

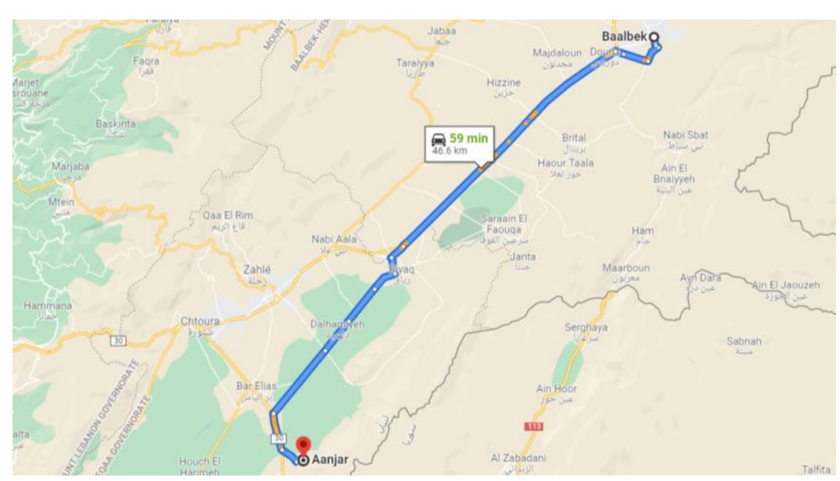
Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Map of Anjar



Location of Anjar



Road map from Baalbek to Anjar

Umayyad city of Anjar

ANJAR

Visits

- Important commercial centers built by the Umayyads – panoramic view
- Early Islamic architecture monuments
- Bathhouse
- Little Palace
- Main Streets, colonnades and walls
- Mosque
- The Great Palace
- Qalaat Al-Hosn

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon





The market arcades



The souks

© LAU-LCF

The Great Palace

ANJAR

- **Gastronomy**

There are many nice restaurants scattered along the small river of Anjar. The area is also known for several dishes such as Hrisseh, mainly prepared for the Feast of the Holy Cross. It is a slowly cooked wheat and meat stew. For the Feast, it is prepared in 40 giant outdoor pots to symbolize the heroic 40 days of resistance of Moussa Dagh. Mhammara is one of its Armenian specialties and a must-try. It consists of red pepper puree, breadcrumbs and several other spices.

- **Accommodation**



Sfouf





Mhammara

Arabic dessert made of phillo sheets, filled with nuts, fried then dipped in sugar syrup.

HIMA KFAR ZABAD

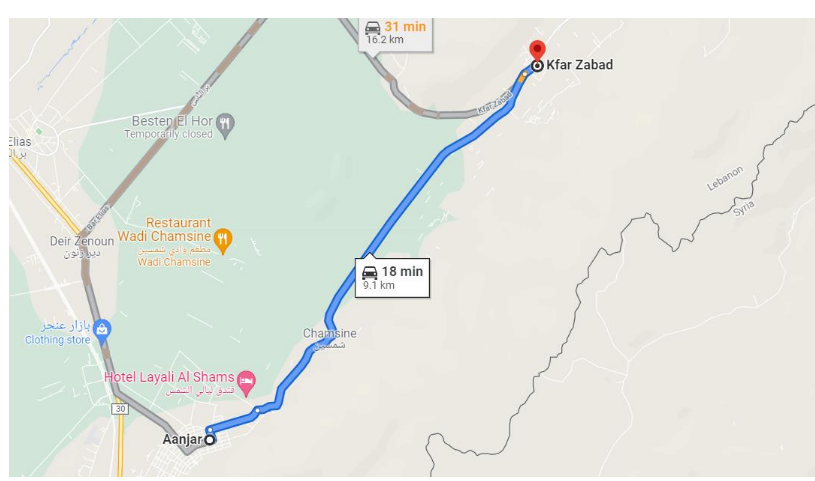
HIMA KFAR ZABAD was announced on 26 October 2004 to protect the site from all kinds of abuses, especially continuous hunting. The Hima area covers the whole Important Bird Area that constitutes the wetlands in addition to the agricultural lands. This area is highly rich in its unique flora and fauna; with more than 138 bird species, and a number of globally threatened plants. The area is characterized by the breeding of Syrian Serin globally threatened bird in addition to otter and wild cat.



Map of Kfar Zabad



Location of Kfar Zabad



Road map from Anjar to Kfar Zabad

Hima Kfar Zabad

HIMA KFAR ZABAD

Visits

- Agricultural lands



Agricultural land in Hima Kfar Zabad

ITINERARY 1 – DAY 2: Rashaya Al-Wadi – Kefraya – Taanayel

Beirut
Chtaura
Baalbek
Taanael
Hima Kfar-Zabad
Kefraya
Rashaya Al-Wadi
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON
Scale = 1 : 200 000
LEGEND
وزارة السياحة اللبنانية
MINISTÈRE LIBANAIS DU TOURISME

After spending the night in Hima Kfar-Zabad, the second day of the Itinerary 1 leads to Taanayel passing by Rashaya Al-Wadi and Kefraya.

Passing by these coastal cities, you can see several places such as:

- Ruins from different civilizations
- Historical places
- Churches and mosques
- Citadels

Go back to *ITINERARY 1* table

RASHAYA AL-WADI

RASHAYA AL-WADI is a village in West Bekaa lying at the foothills of Mount Hermon, one of the country's most important water reservoirs. The village is characterized by its traditional architecture and is famous for its Citadel of Independence, which has witnessed the dawn of Lebanese Independence from the French Mandate in 1943.

More info

- Panoramic view of Mount Hermon
- Panoramic view of Rashaya

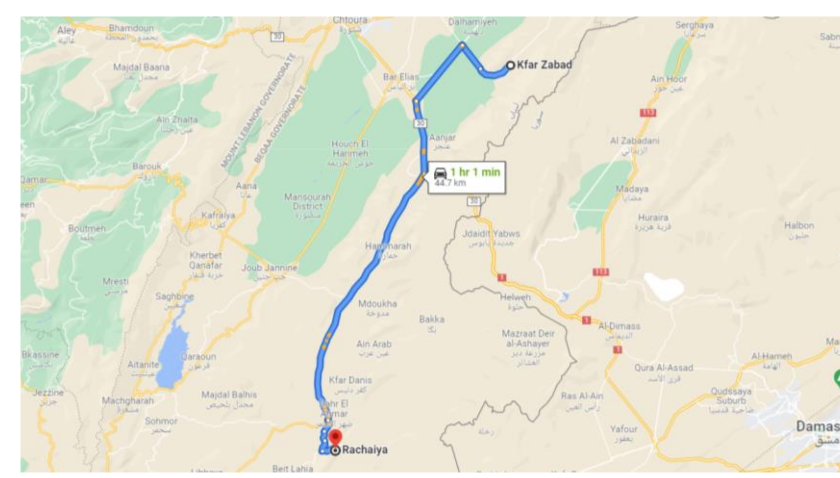
Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



Map of Rashaya Al-Wadi



Location of Rashaya



Road map from Kfar Zabad to Rashaya Al-Wadi

General View of Mount Hermon

RASHAYA AL-WADI

Visits

- Significant cultural heritage site, temples circled Hermon (Hebbariya, Ain Hirsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa, Akbeh, Aiha, Bakka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime).
- Abel Sarcophagus
- Mar Moussa Al-Habashi Church
- Rashaya Old Souk – panoramic view
- Independence Citadel of Rashaya – panoramic view

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



View of Rashaya and Mount Hermon



Mar Moussa Al-Habashi Church



Rashaya Old Souk

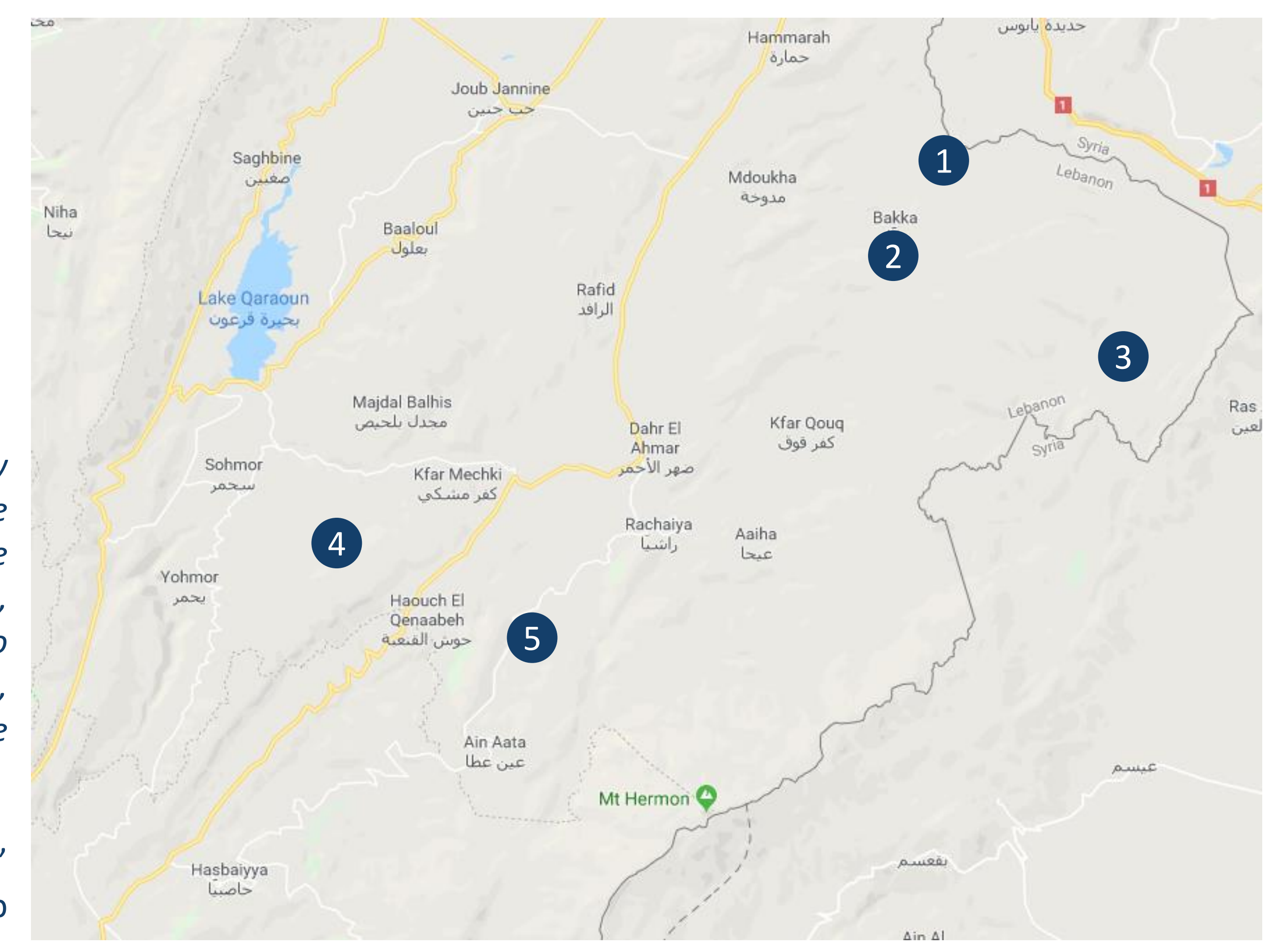
General View of Rashaya

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

1. **The Temple of Yanta:** Roman Temple
2. **The Temple of Bakka:** Roman Temple
3. **The Temple of Deir El-Ashayer:** Greco-Roman Temple
4. **The Temple of Nabi Safa:** Roman Temple
5. **The Temple of Ain Harsha:** Roman Temple

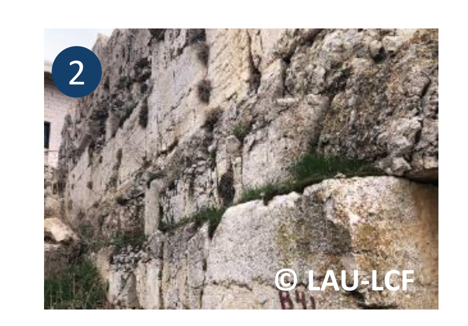
“Mount Hermon has the largest number of temples ever to be found in any region in the world. Among the temples located in the western slope of the mountain, there is one in a place called Jabal Khan, another near the village ‘Aqbe, in addition to temples found in the villages of Hebbariyeh, Nehi Safa, Bakka Yanta, ‘Ayin Harsheh, and Deir El-’Ashayer. Remains of temples were also found in ‘Ayha, ‘Ayin Lebbayam, Kfarqouk, Borqosh, Mdoukha, Raqleh, Helwa, ‘Ayn Qania, Al-Ram, and others, in addition to those found on the eastern slope overlooking the Syrian territories.”

“The Roots of Christianity in Lebanon”
by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb



Location of temples in Mount Hermon











SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

1 THE TEMPLE OF YANTA:

There are ruins of an impressively sized and positioned Roman temple in the area that is presumed to have been built on the site of a forerunning Semitic temple. The ruins lie on either side of the road and are sparse but retain some upright stones. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.



Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Yanta





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

2 THE TEMPLE OF BAKKA:

The ruins of a Roman temple in the village are included in a group of Temples of Mount Hermon. George Taylor classified it as a prostylos temple and noted that the north and south walls remained standing and the podium floor had survived.

The site has been heavily damaged by local construction of houses over the site. The temple featured an underground crypt that was accessible via one of the houses that had been built over it.

Edward Robinson suggested that word *bakka* could have derived from the later Arabic meaning of *crowd*. Others have linked it to the Hebrew word *bikha* meaning *plain.*

Back to the slide "*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*"

Location of Bakka





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

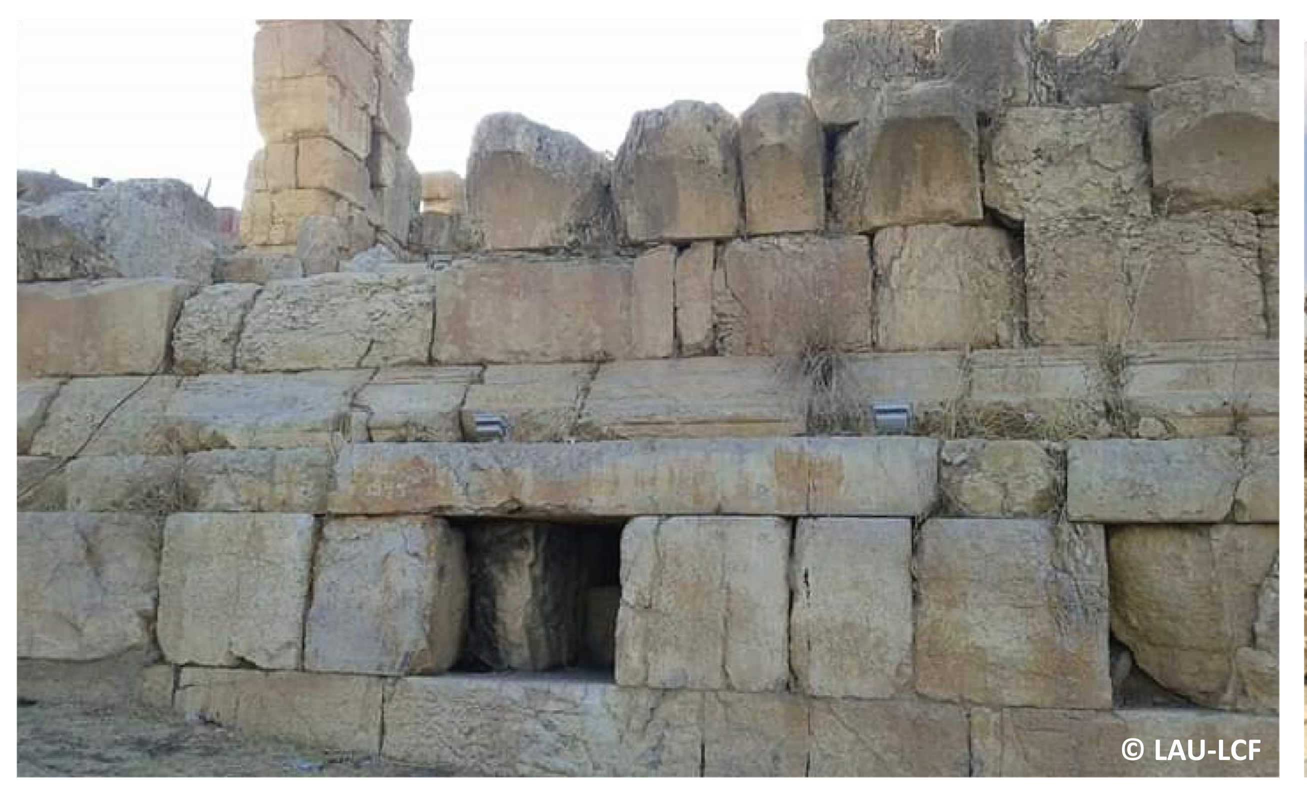
3 THE TEMPLE OF DEIR EL-ASHAYER:

The village is near toa the remains of a substantial Greco-Roman style temple dedicated to unknown deities, with 30 metres (long foundations and columns re-used in local construction. A Greek inscription was found noting that a bench was installed *“in the year 242, under Beeliabos, also called Diototos, son of Abedanos, high priest of the gods of Kiboreia“*. Julien Alquot argued that the bench had liturgical uses as a mobile throne. The era of the gods of Kiboreia is not certain, as is their location which is not conclusively to be identified with Deir El Aachayer, but was possibly the Roman sanctuary or the name of a settlement in the area. It has been suggested that the name Kiboreia was formed from the Aramaic word *kbr*, meaning a *“place of great abundance”*



Back to the slide *“SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON”*

Location of Deir El-Ashayer





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

4 THE TEMPLE OF NABI SAFA:

The temple is situated in the village of KfarMishki. In 1852 the village was visited by an orientalist by the name of Edward Robinson. He later wrote about his visit, mentioning the existence of two Roman sarcophagi in the area. One may see the ruins of a Roman temple having connection with a group of sanctuaries on Mount Hermon. This temple, seventy feet by thirty, has suffered a great deal of damage, but from its position facing the splendid Mount Hermon, it offers a unique and unparalleled spectacle. George Taylor spoke of the alignment of the doorway in relation to the Mountain. The blocks of stone used in the construction are a yard thick, skillfully hewn and finished. The pediment is attractive and elegant. The only wall still standing with its pilasters is the one on the north side. Impressive columns embellish the entrance on the western side and there one can see an altar and a stairway leading to an underground chamber. It is supposed that the temple was once used as a sanctuary dedicated to the prophet Safa, En-Nabi Safa, the Pure, descendant of Jacob. His honorable body is believed to lie somewhere in the grounds accompanied by his spirit and an ancient tradition has it that one day a man with sufficiently deep faith will uncover it.



Location of Nabi Safa

Back to the slide *“SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON”*





SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

5 THE TEMPLE OF AIN HARCHA :

(About a forty-minute walk) along a rocky path, on a ridge-top to the west, higher than the village sits one of the best examples of a Roman temple in the vicinity of Mount Hermon. The temple of Ain Harcha can also be reached by walking down from the village of Ain Ata.

It was restored in 1938-1939 and dates from a Greek inscription on one of the blocks to 114-115 AD. The temple is built of limestone, opens to the east and blends in well with the landscape. The pediment and west wall are in particularly good condition and two columns bases show what supported the beams and roof. Carved blocks show busts of Selene, the moon goddess and Helios, the sun god. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.

Panoramic view of the Temple of Ain Harcha

Back to the slide “*SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON*”



Location of Aiyn Harsheh





KEFRAYA

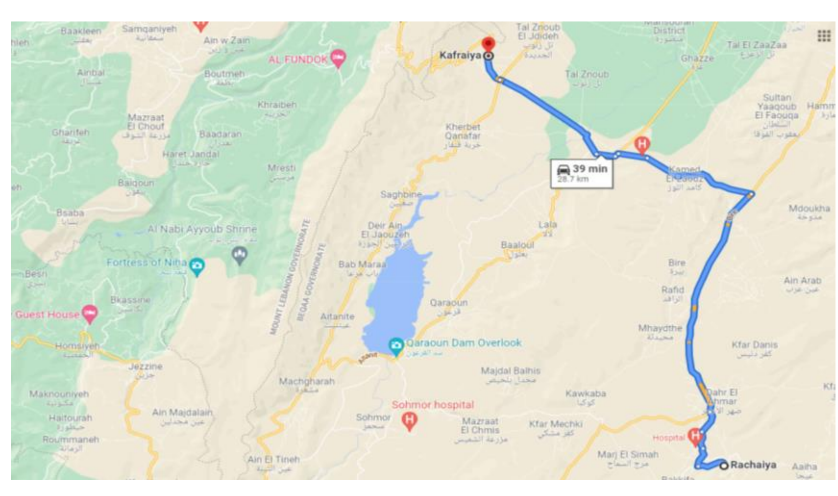
KEFRAYA was once home to the Qaraoun culture with a Heavy Neolithic archaeological industry prior to the Neolithic Revolution. A very large archaeological site was discovered in the area running along both sides of the road. Good quality flint nodules were found amongst Eocene conglomerates where a Heavy Neolithic factory site was detected with a massive abundance of Levallois cores, debitage and waste littering the surface of the site. Large numbers of flint tools were collected by workers that included a variety of scrapers on flakes, knives, axes, adzes and a segmented sickle blade. The type of flint found in the area was termed Kefraya flint.



Map of Kefraya



Location of Kefraya



Road map from Rashaya Al-Wadi to Kefraya



Kefraya in spring time



Kefraya under snow

KEFRAYA

Visits

- Kefraya wineries, wine tasting and wine cellars tour
- Train tour to the orchards and the rock Roman tombs



Grape agriculture in Kefraya

TAANAYEL

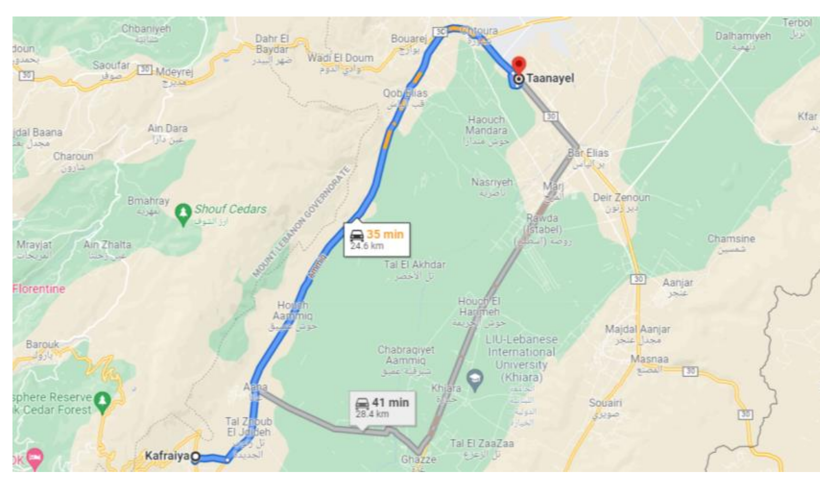
TANNAYEL is a rich agricultural area with vineyards and orchards of fruit trees of many kinds. A lake (panoramic view) was laid out of abundant beauty to the area



Map of Taanael



Location of Taanael



Road map from Kefraya to Taanael

Taanaeyl Lake

TAANAYEL

Visits

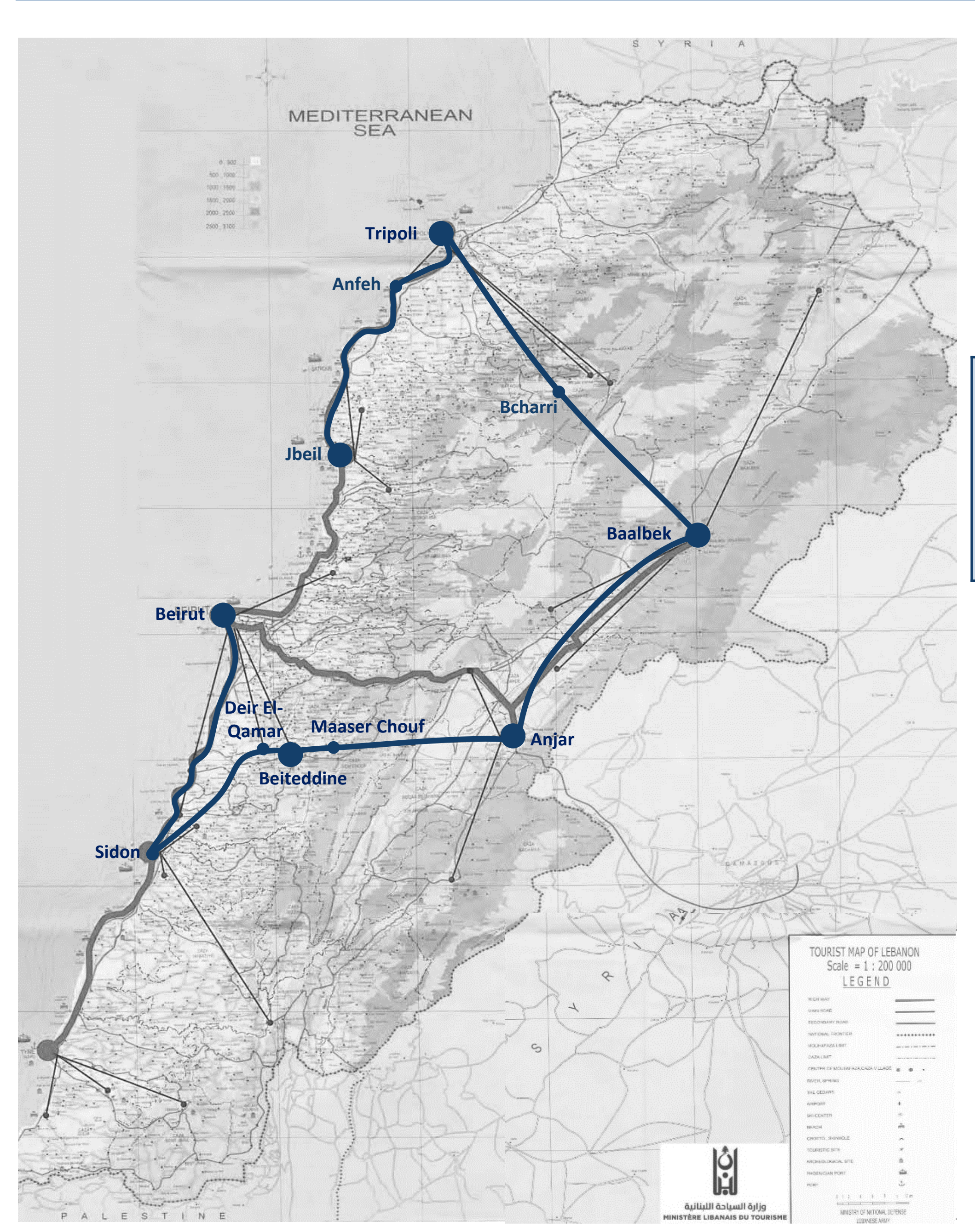
- Mud-bricks constructions
- Farm visit (Cows, lake, recycling units ...)



Agricultural land in Taanayel

EXPLORATION OF THE LEBANESE NETWORK OF HISTORICAL CITIES BY THE UMAYYAD ROUTE

ITINERARY 2 – *A Route towards the Interior and the coastal line*



This itinerary is composed of 5 days; starting from Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, and ending in Jbeil. Passing by several cities and villages as per the table below.

ITINERARY 2	**DAY 1:** Beirut – Sidon – Deir El-Qamar – Beiteddine **DAY 2:** Maaser Chouf – Anjar **DAY 3:** Baalbek **DAY 4:** Bcharri – Tripoli **DAY 5:** Anfeh – Jbeil

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 1: Beirut – Sidon – Deir El-Qamar – Beiteddine

It is an itinerary that starts from Beirut to Beiteddine; as a first stop and a sleep-over for DAY 1.

Passing by Sidon and Deir El-Qamar, several places can be discovered such as:

- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Palaces

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

BEIRUT

BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mameluke, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.

Videos are ©Mr. Bahij Hojeij



Map of Beirut


Location of Beirut



Beirut Aerial View



Beirut National Museum (watch video)

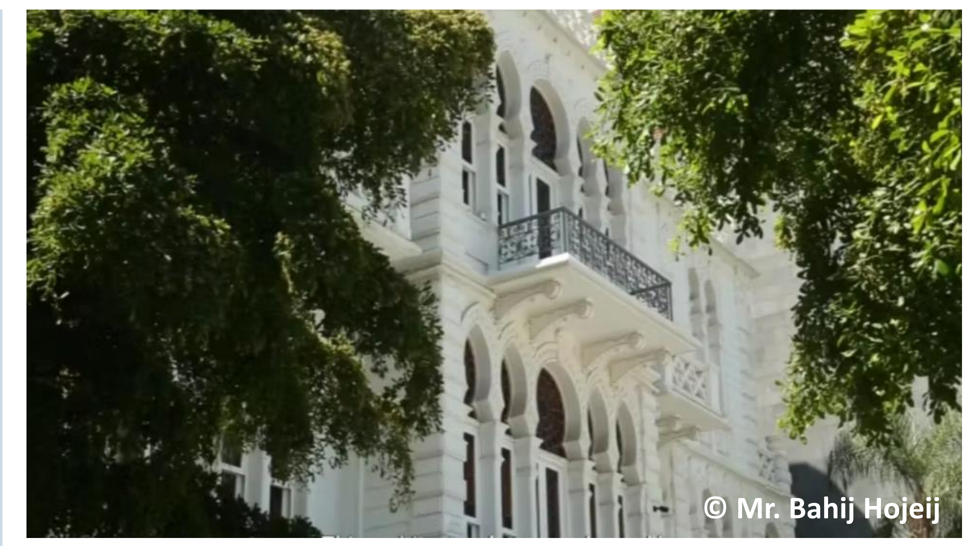


Beirut National Library (watch video)

BEIRUT

Visits

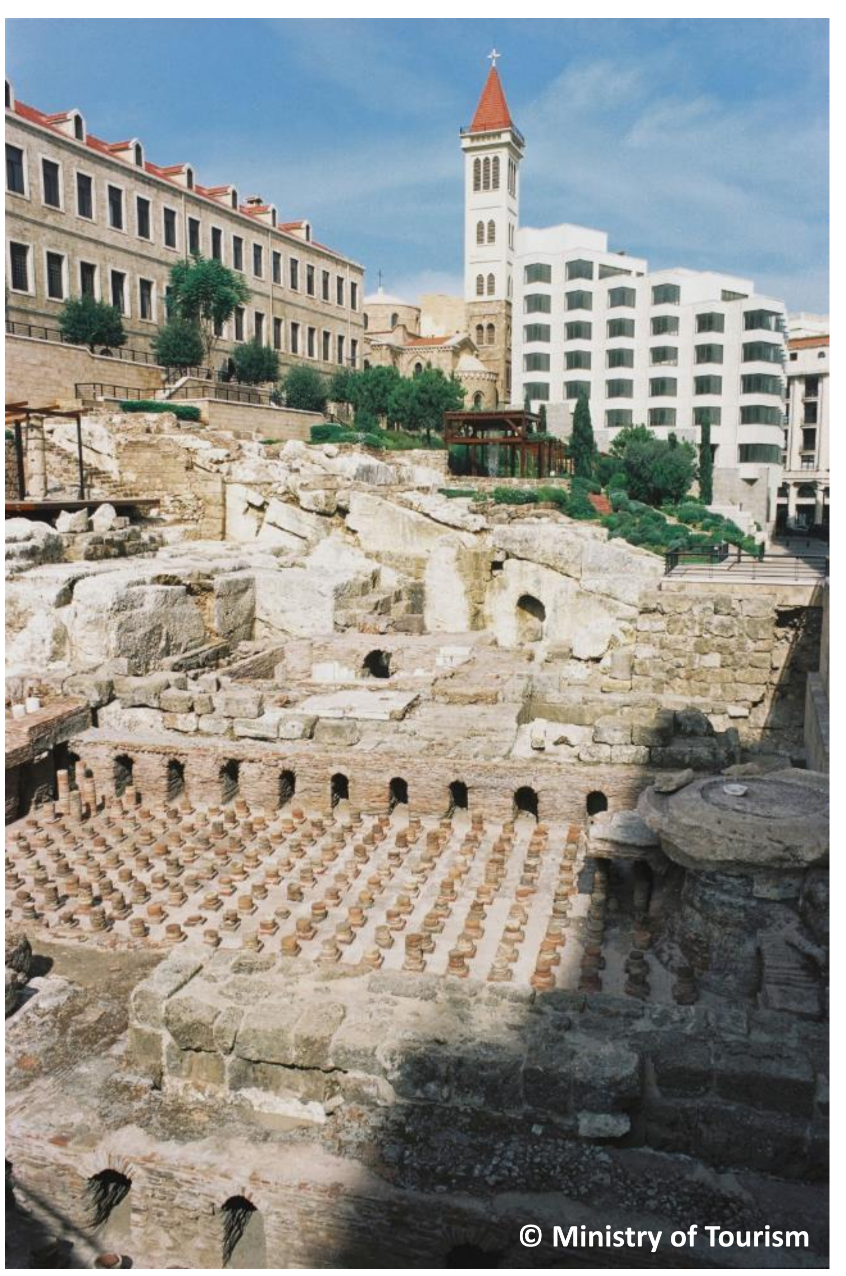
- Al-Umari Mosque of Beirut – interior panoramic view
- Beirut National Museum – interior panoramic views: 1 – 2 - 3
- AUB Archaeological Museum
- Heliopolis
- Lebanese Prehistoric Museum
- Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum – exterior panoramic view
- The Grand Serail (interior panoramic view – exterior panoramic view) / Roman Baths Garden – panoramic view
- Amir Assaf Mosque
- Al-Omari Mosque/St. John The Baptist Cathedral
- Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque - interior panoramic view
- Saint George Maronite Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Saint Georges Greek Orthodox Cathedral – interior panoramic view
- Nejmeh Square/Abed Clock Tower
- Martyr's Square/Statue of the Martyr's
- Wadi Abu Jamil and The Maghen Abraham
- A Walk in Gourand Street
- Garden of Forgiveness, Archaeological Area



Sursock Palace/Sursock Museum (watch video)



Al-Omari Mosque



Roman Baths

BEIRUT

- **Gastronomy**

Beirut has many restaurants, bars and cafes with excellent local and international cuisine. It is also known for its vibrant nightlife with a host of restaurants, bars, pubs and clubs clustered mainly in the Hamra, Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael and Badaro neighborhoods (panoramic view: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5).

Traditional Lebanese cuisine is known for its *mezze*, a myriad of small dishes that are served as tapas before the main meal. Beirut also has a considerable Armenian community and offers a range of high quality Armenian restaurants.

- **Accommodation**

  - Plaza Hotel in Hamra

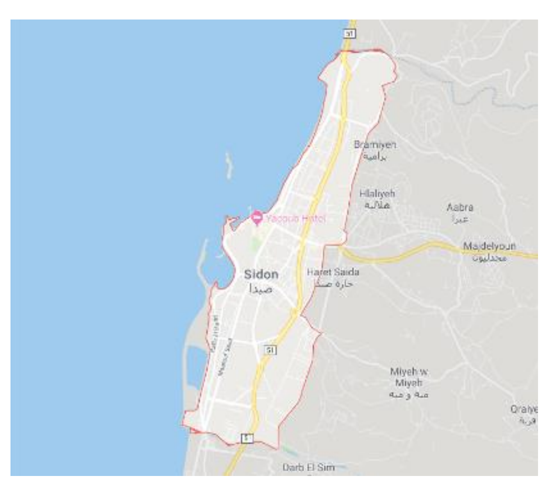


The Corniche, Beirut

SIDON

SIDON is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.

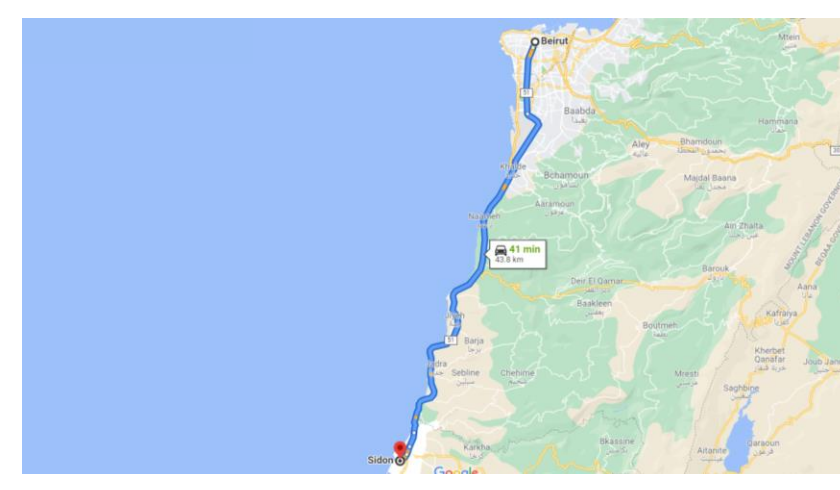
Sidon's Sea Castle - Panoramic view



Map of Sidon



Location of Sidon



Road map from Beirut to Sidon

Sidon's Sea Castle

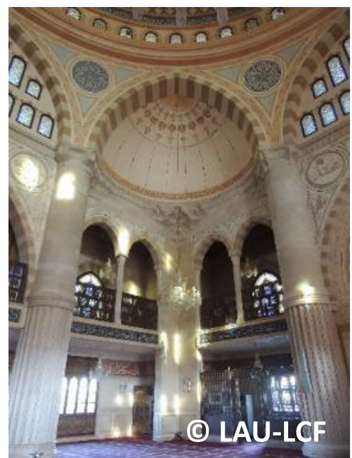
ITINERARY 2 – DAY 1: Beirut – Sidon – Deir El-Qamar – Beiteddine

SIDON

Visits

- Sidon's Sea Castle
- Temple of Echmoun – panoramic view
- Old Souk
- Debbane Palace
- Sidon Soap Museum - panoramic view
- Khan Al-Franj – panoramic view
- Bahaa El-Dine and Al-Kikhiya Mosques
- St. Nicolas Church
- Al-Omari Mosque – panoramic view

Panoramic views are © DiscoverLebanon



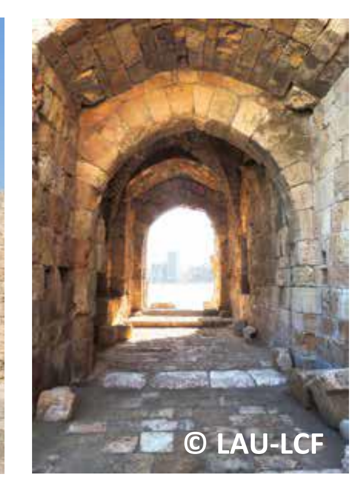





Bahaa El-Dine and Al-Kikhiya Mosques



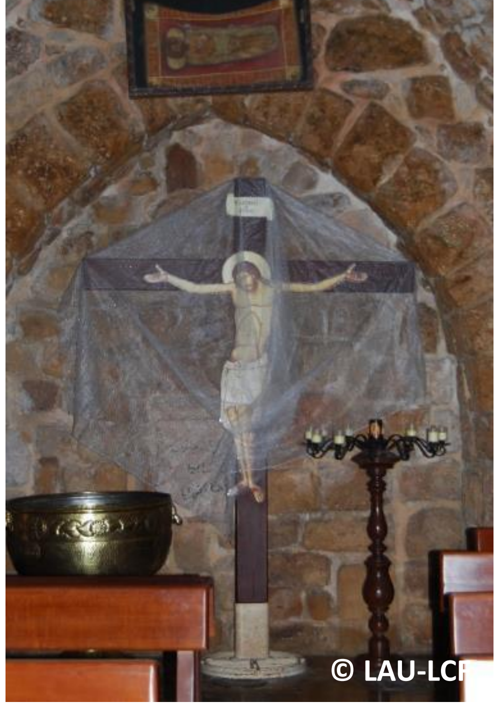
The Sea Citadelle



The Sea Citadelle




Khan Al-Franj



St. Nicolas Church

SIDON

- **Gastronomy**

Sidon is a culinary destination where you can enjoy excellent citrus fruits and other regional specialties.

Sidon has an attractive variety of traditional Lebanese restaurants. Shawarma, foul (Fava beans) and falafel are well known in many small restaurants in the city, and they are a favorite with visitors.

Cakes are also popular in Sidon, and many of its cake shops are known throughout Lebanon. Its classic desserts and pastries include *baklawa*, *seniora* and *jazariyya*.

- **Accommodation**



Fattoush salad

DEIR EL-QAMAR

During the 16th to 18th centuries, **DEIR AL-QAMAR** was the capital and the residence of the Emirate of Mount Lebanon.

It is also notable for its 15th-century Fakhreddine Mosque, Fakhreddine II Palace, and the palace of the Emir Yusuf Shihab.

The 17th century Deir al-Qamar Synagogue is also in the village, although closed to the public. During its peak, the city was the Centre of Lebanese literary tradition.

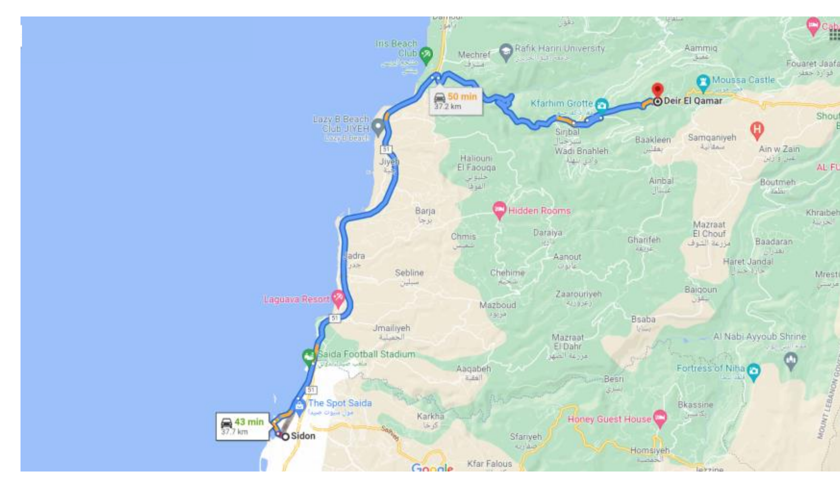
Deir El-Qamar Square – panoramic view



Map of Deir El-Qamar



Location of Deir El-Qamar



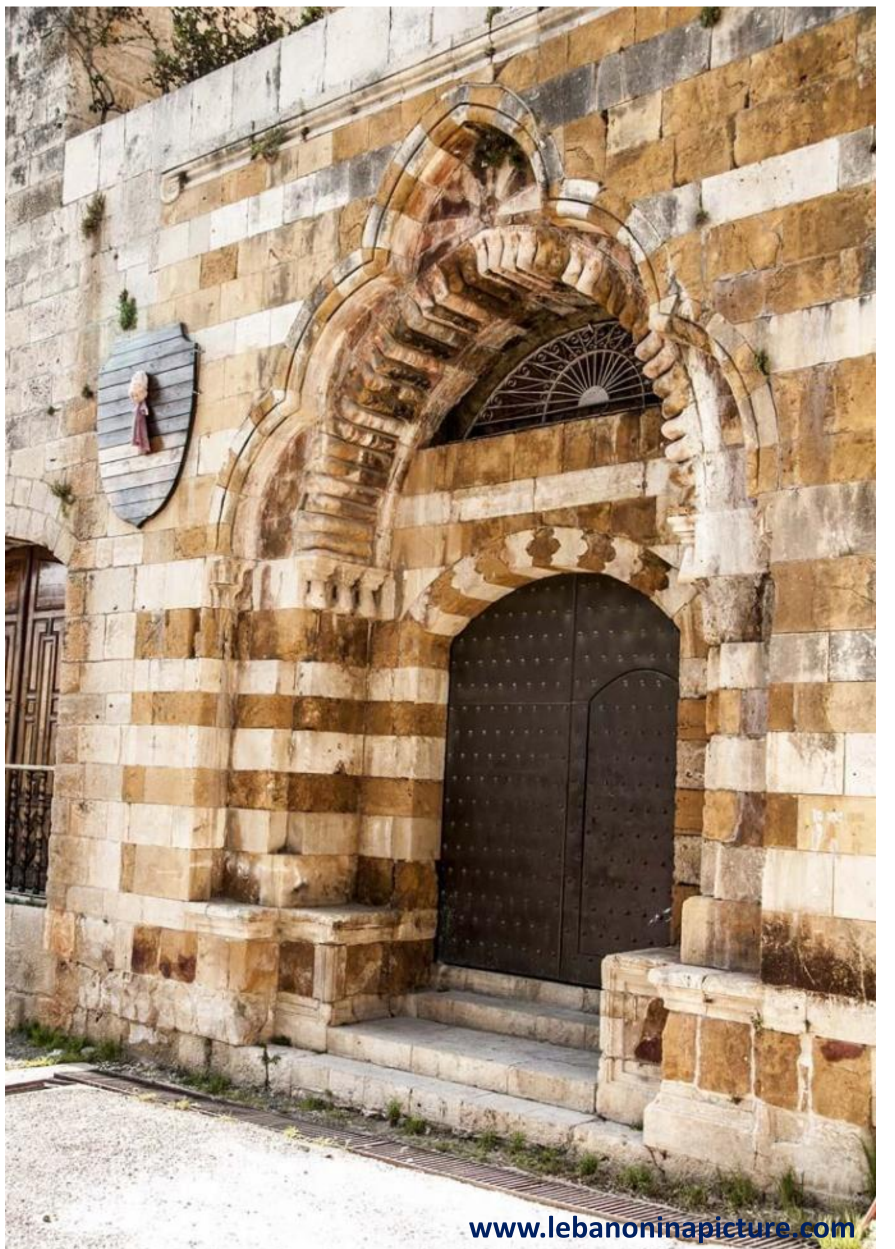
Road map from Sidon to Deir El-Qamar

Deir El-Qamar Square

DEIR EL-QAMAR

Visits

- Saydet El-Talle Church
- The Kaissariyeh
- Traditional houses' architecture



Traditional houses Architecture



General View

BEITEDDINE

BEITEDDINE is a small town and the administrative capital of the Chouf District. The town is located near the town of Deir el-Qamar from which it is separated by a steep valley.

The town is well known for the Beiteddine Palace, which hosts the annual Summer Beiteddine Festival.

Beiteddine Panoramic views:

- The palace
- Room of emir's minister Boutros Karamic

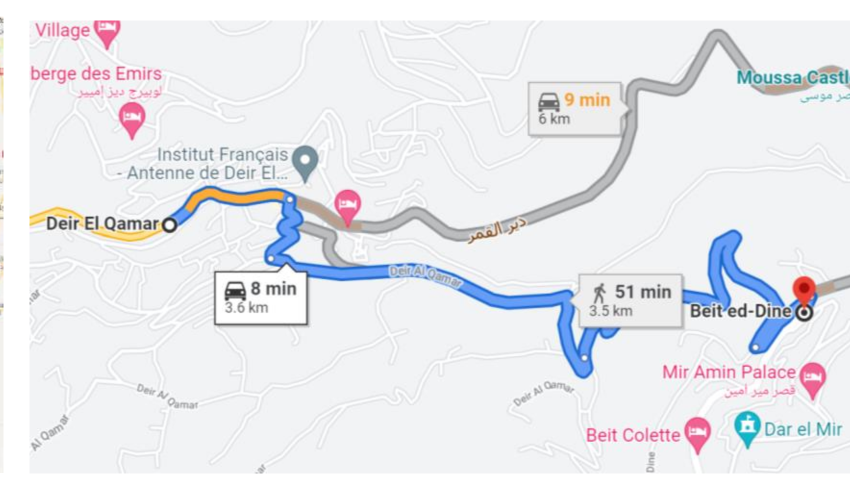




Map of Beiteddine



Location of Beiteddine



Road map from Deir El-Qamar to Beiteddine

Beiteddine

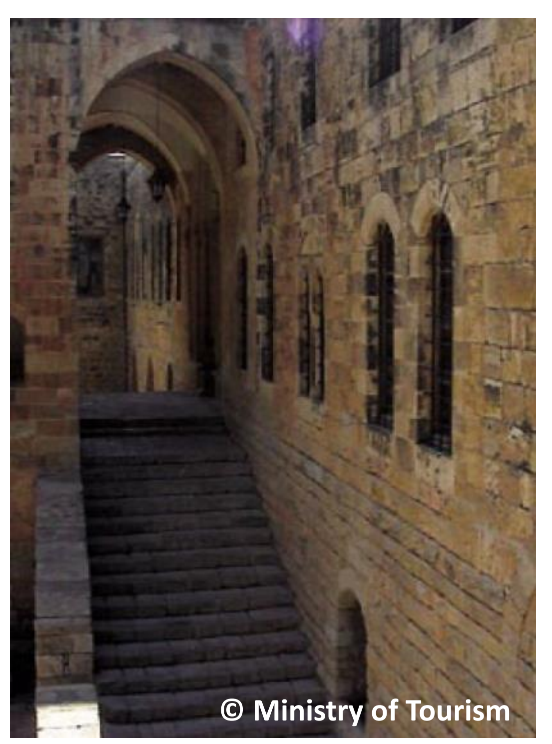
BEITEDDINE

Visits

- Mamluk inspired Fakhreddine Mosque
- The Youssef Chehab Palace
- The Kharj Barracks
- The Palace of Fakhreddine II Ma'ani, its Synagogue
- The Emir Bashir Palace



Dar Al-Kataba



The Stairway (Entrance)



The Entrance



The Main Gate, Al-Midan

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 2: Maaser Chouf – Anjar

After spending the night in Beiteddine, DAY 2 startrs is Maaser Chouf and ends in Anjar

Several places can be discovered such as:

- Museums
- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Palaces

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

MAASER CHOUF

From Syriac origin, "*Maasarto*", meaning "*olive presses*" and "*Shoufo*", meaning "*magic*".

The village of **MAASER CHOUF** offers a panoramic view of Anti-Lebanon range, Mount Hermon, the irrigated plains of West Beqaa and lake Qaraoun, not to mention the view of the Shouf and the Mediterranean Sea.

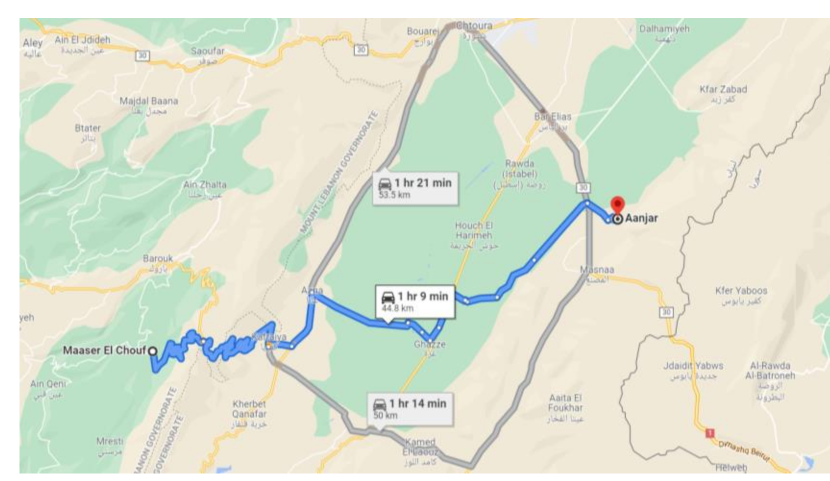
It is labelled as a "zero pollution" village by UNESCO, Maaser Chouf is part of the Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, also recognized by UNESCO as a biosphere reserve in 2005. This village is a haven of peace with its red tiled houses immersed in nature and its Roman ruins whose remains date back to the year 450 BC.



Map of Maaser Chouf



Location of Maaser Chouf



Road map from Maaser Chouf to Anjar

View of the Beqaa valley from Chouf

MAASER CHOUF

Visits

- Largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve
- Mar Mikhael church
- The red-tiled houses and old stone constructions
- Old olive presses
- Roman Fortress and cemetery

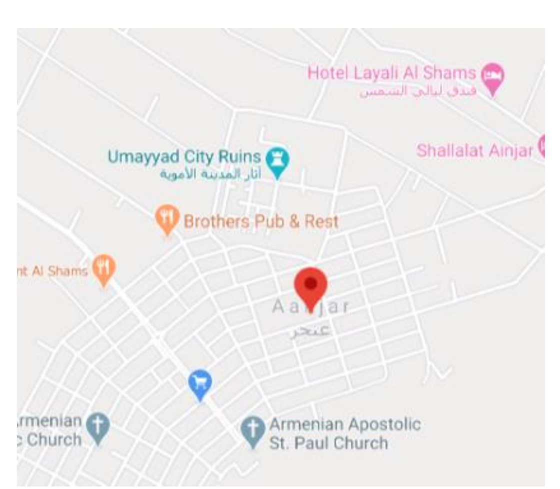


View of the Chouf natural reserve

ANJAR

ANJAR, was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn ‘Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shone for only 20-30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city.

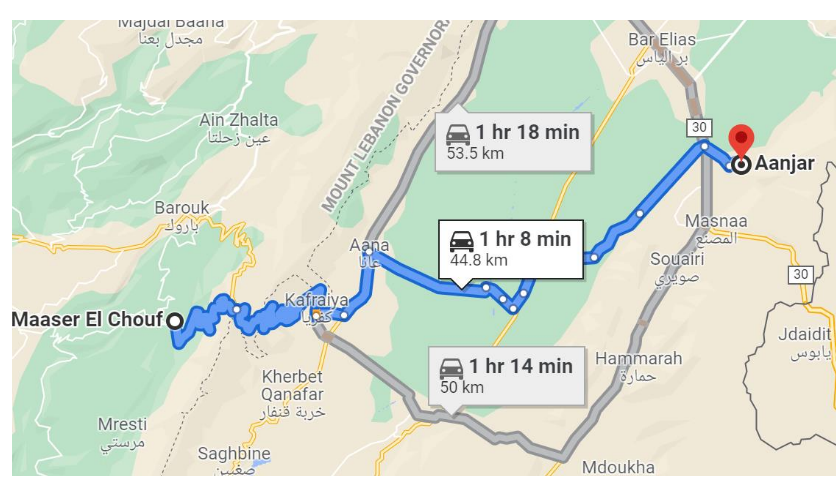
Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Map of Anjar



Location of Anjar



Road map from Maaser Chouf to Anjar

© LAU-LCF

Umayyad city of Anjar

ANJAR

Visits

- Important commercial centers built by the Umayyads – panoramic view
- Early Islamic architecture monuments
- Bathhouse
- Little Palace
- Main Streets, colonnades and walls
- Mosque
- The Great Palace
- Qalaat Al-Hosn



The market arcades



The souks



The Great Palace

ANJAR

- **Gastronomy**

There are many nice restaurants scattered along the small river of Anjar. The area is also known for several dishes such as Hrisseh, mainly prepared for the Feast of the Holy Cross. It is a slowly cooked wheat and meat stew. For the Feast, it is prepared in 40 giant outdoor pots to symbolize the heroic 40 days of resistance of Moussa Dagh. Mhammara is one of its Armenian specialties and a must-try. It consists of red pepper puree, breadcrumbs and several other spices.

- **Accommodation**



Sfouf





Raw Meat Kebbe

Arabic dessert made of phillo sheets, filled with nuts, fried then dipped in sugar syrup.

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 3: Baalbek

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

Tripoli

Anfeh

Bcharri

Jbeil

Baalbek

Beirut

Deir El Qamar

Maaser Chouf

Anjar

Beiteddine

Sidon

PALESTINE

TOURIST MAP OF LEBANON

Scale = 1 : 200 000

LEGEND

وزارة السياحة اللبنانية

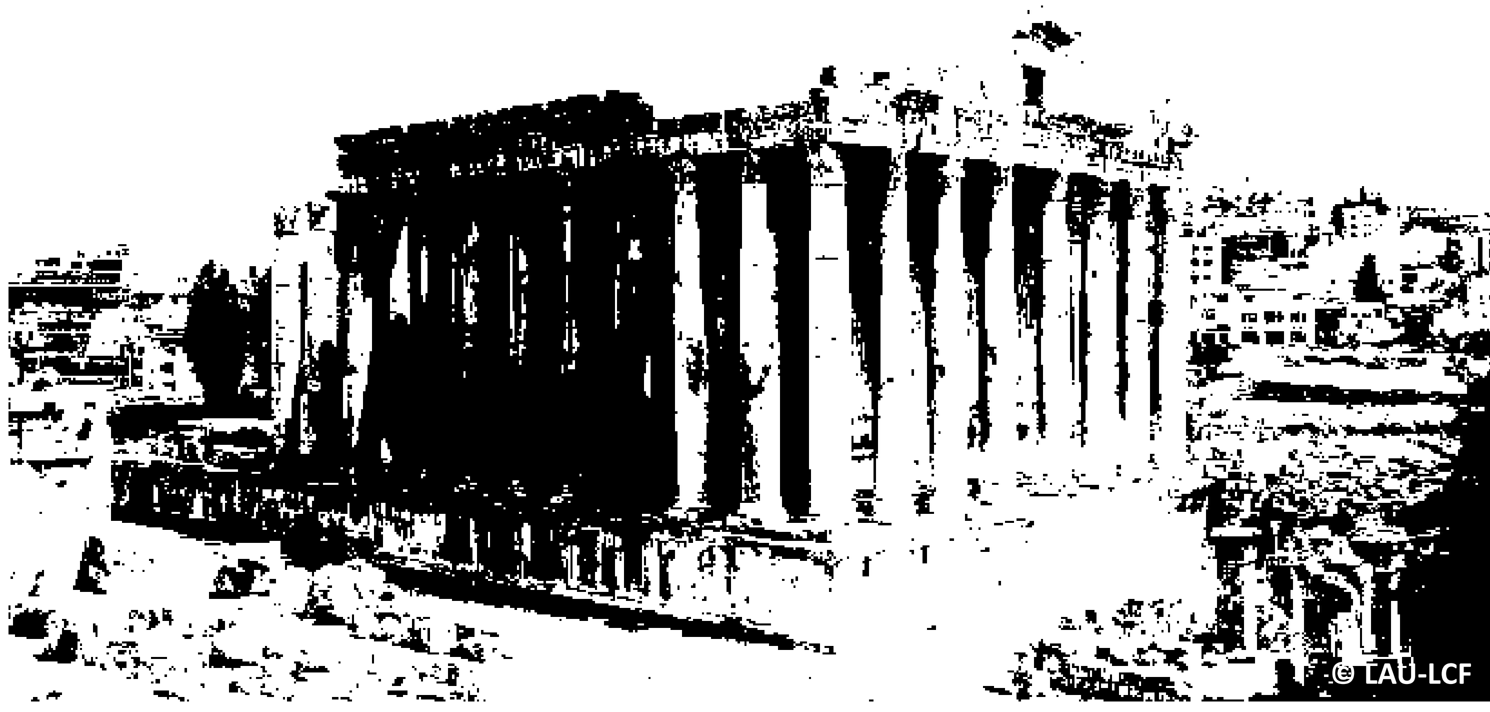
MINISTÈRE LIBANAIS DU TOURISME

After spending the night in Anjar, DAY 3 focuses in Baalbek

Several places can be discovered such as:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Temples
- Mosques
- Cathedrals

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table



ITINERARY 2 – DAY 3: Baalbek

BAALBEK

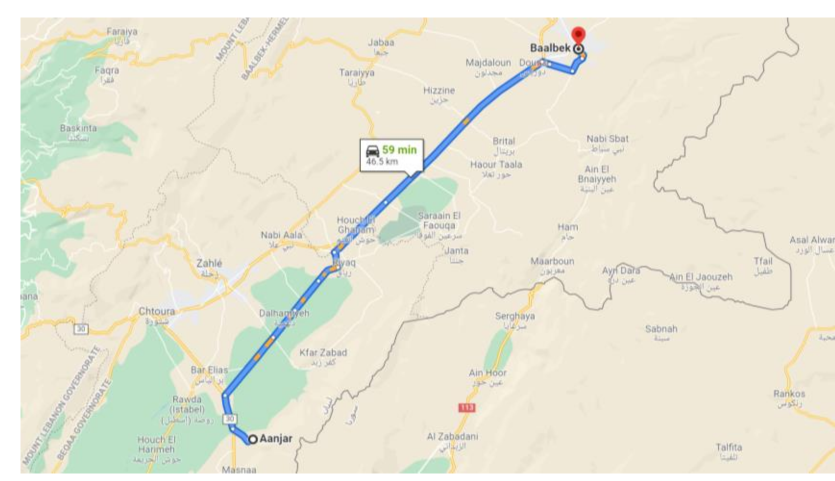
BAALBEK, founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Map of Baalbek



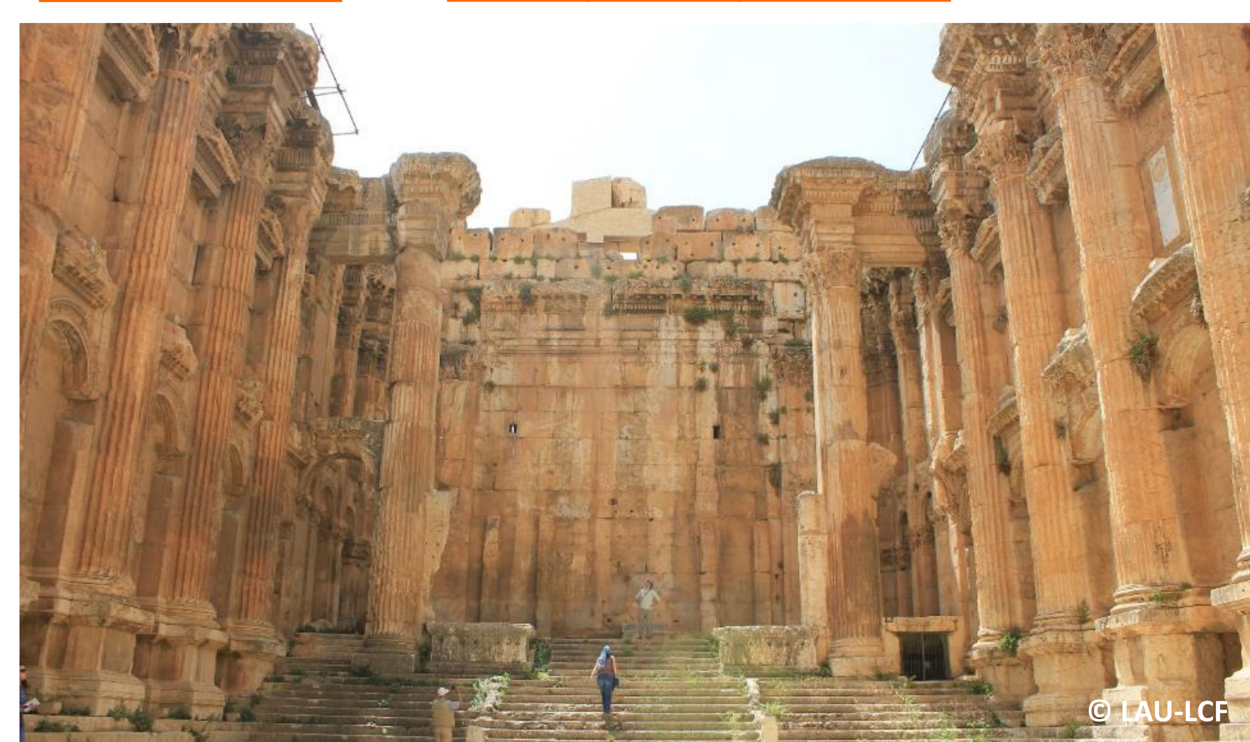
Location of Baalbek



Road map from Anjar to Baalbek



Temple of Jupiter



Cella of the temple of Bacchus

BAALBEK

Visits

- Three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury. Panoramic views of several monuments (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6) and stone of the pregnant woman – panoramic view
- Heliopolis
- The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque
- Qubbat Al Sa'idayn
- Qubbat Douris
- Ras El Ain Spring
- Ras Al Imam Al Hussein Mosque
- Al Barbara Mosque
- The Shrine of Al Sayyida Khawla - panoramic view
- Cathedral of Fakieh – panoramic view
- Our Lady of Beshwet – panoramic views (1 – 2)



Temple of Bacchus



Temple of Venus

© LAU-LCF

The Umayyad Mosque or The Great Friday Mosque

BAALBEK

- **Gastronomy**

Baalbek is known for its small meat-only pizza, known as *Sfiha*, which is on sale in several bakeries in town. Homemade products are also available such as *koshk*, a granulated dry material made from cracked wheat dough and yogurt.

- **Accommodation**



A kind environment to have lunch in Baalbek

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 4: Bcharri – Tripoli

After spending the night in Baalbek, DAY 2 starts in Bcharri and ends in Tripoli

Several places can be discovered such as:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Temples
- Mosques
- Citadels

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

BCHARRI

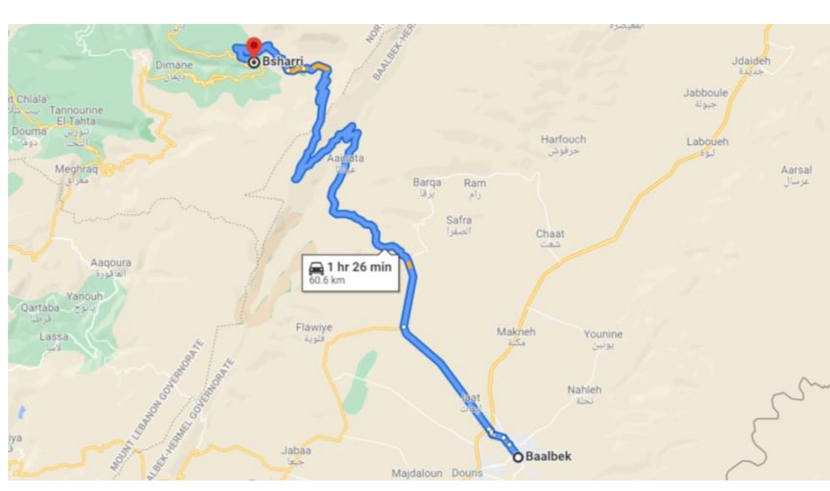
BCHARRI is a town to the east of Tripoli. Bcharri is the town of the only remaining and preserved original Cedars of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*), and is the birthplace of the famous poet, painter and sculptor Khalil Gibran who now has a museum in the town to honor him.



Map of Bcharri



Location of Bcharri



Road map from Baalbek to Bcharri

General View of Bcharri

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 4: Bcharri – Tripoli

BCHARRI

Visits

- Infamous Cedar Forest: an ancient grove of cedars and the oldest in Lebanon, makes a beautiful site.
- Gibran Museum: it is dedicated to the Lebanese writer, philosopher, and artist Gibran Kahlil Gibran.
- The Phoenician Tomb.
- Mar Youhanna Adna.
- The Roman Temples - The Roman Statue - Saydet El-Shkeif
- Mar Elias Church and Monastery
- Canaanite Tomb
- Mar Mema
- Saydet El-Dirr



The Phoenician Tomb



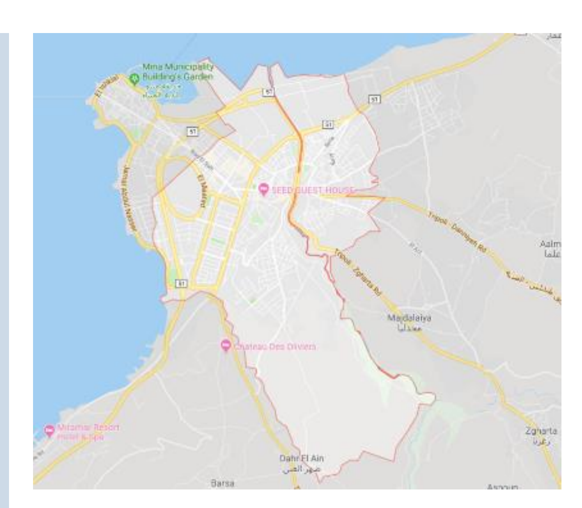
Mar Elias Church and Monastery



Gibran Museum

TRIPOLI

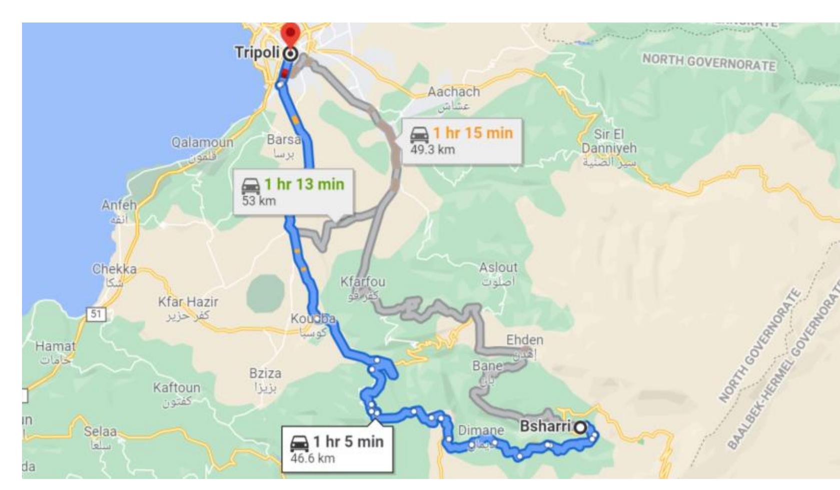
TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.



Map of Tripoli



Location of Tripoli



Road map from Bcharri to Tripoli



Souk Al-Khayatin



The Citadel of Tripoli

TRIPOLI

Visits

- The Taynal Mosque – exterior panoramic view – interior panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Saint-Gilles Citadel
- St. John of Mont-Pelerin Church
- Al-Mansouri Great Mosque
- Al-Bourtassi Mosque and Madrassa – panoramic view
- Abd El-Wahed Mosque
- Al-Ouwaissiya Mosque
- Al-Attar Mosque
- Al-Muallaq Mosque
- Arghoun Shah Mosque
- Al-Qartawiyya Madrassa
- Al-Tawashiyah Madrassa
- Al-Saqraqiyah Madrassa
- Khan Al-Saboun (Soap) – panoramic view
- Khan Al-Khaiyatine (Tailors)
- Khan Al-Askar (Soldiers)
- Souk Al-Haraj
- Hammam Al-Nouri
- Hammam Izz Eddine
- Hammam Al-Jadid
- Clock Tower/Manshieh Park
- The Lion’s Tower
- The Train Station



Khan Al-Saboun



Al-Mansouri Great Mosque

TRIPOLI

- **Gastronomy**

Tripoli is known for its special seafood dishes including the "*Samkeh Harra*" (Chili fish) dish which is known throughout Lebanon. It consists of baked seabass topped with a special chili sauce, and is an excellent choice in Tripoli's restaurants. "*Moghrabieh*" is also prepared well in the city. It is a traditional Lebanese dish made of small dough balls cooked with lamb shanks or chicken and lots of shallot onions. The city is most famous however for its desserts and pastries. The city's specialty is "*Halawet el Jeben*" (cheese dessert), which consists of a cheese roll stuffed with cream and topped with orange blossom flavored sugar syrup. It can be found in several pastry shops in the city, the most famous of which is al-Hallab. In the city's old souks, the most popular dish is grilled "*kaak*" with cheese.

- **Accommodation**



Sfiha

ITINERARY 2 – DAY 5: Anfeh – Jbeil

After spending the night in Tripoli, DAY 5 starts in Anfeh and ends in Jbeil

Several places can be discovered such as:

- Archaeological sites and ruins from different civilizations
- Churches
- Mosques
- Phoenician reservoir

Go back to *ITINERARY 2* table

ANFEH

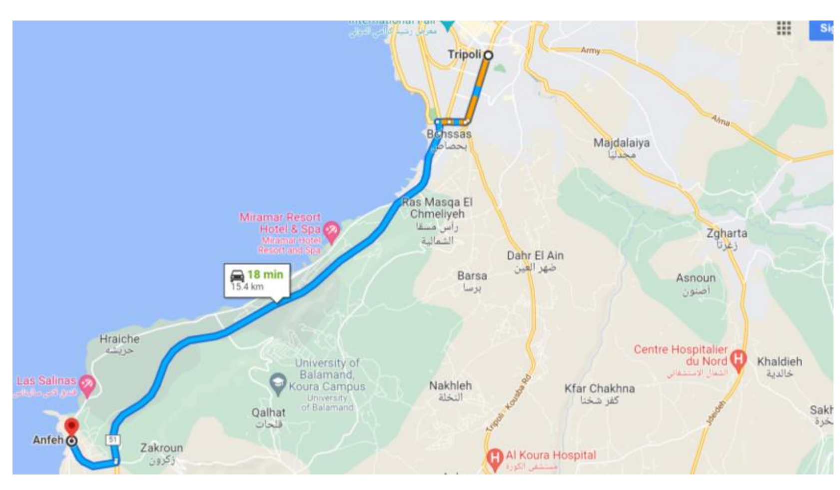
ANFEH is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon. Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity. The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.



Map of Anfeh



Location of Anfeh



Road map from Tripoli to Anfeh



The Phoenician Reservoir



Anfeh Aerial View

ANFEH

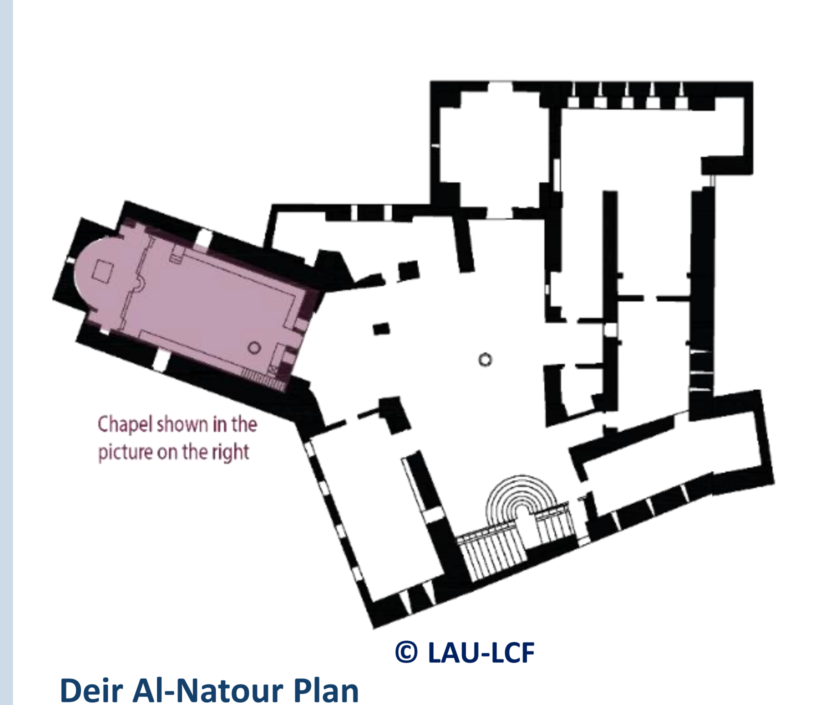
Visits

The remains of the civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.

- Our Lady of the Wind
- St. Catherine Church
- Al-Qalaa (the Citadel) – panoramic view
- Deir Al-Natour and sea salt bassins – panoramic view



Anfeh Beach



Deir Al-Natour Plan



Deir Al-Natour (interior view)

JBEIL

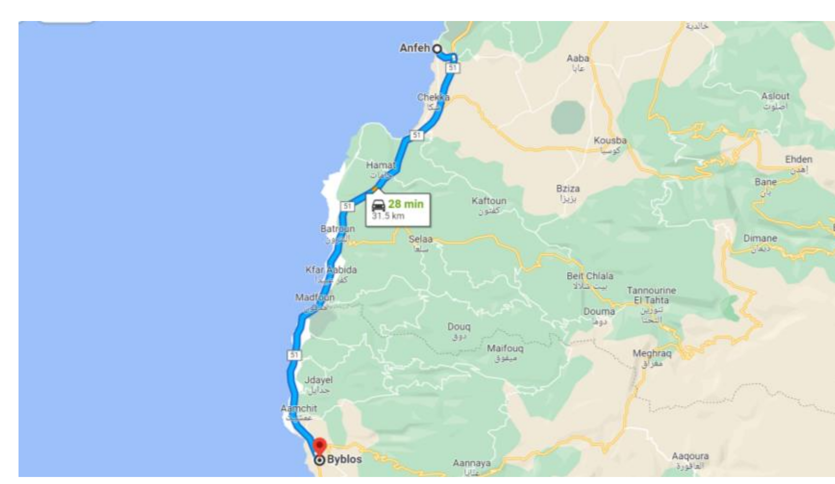
JBEIL is believed to have been first occupied between 8800 and 7000 BC and continuously inhabited since 5000 BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Map of Jbeil



Location of Jbeil



Road map from Anfeh to Jbeil

© LAU-LCF

Jbeil Harbour

JBEIL

Visits

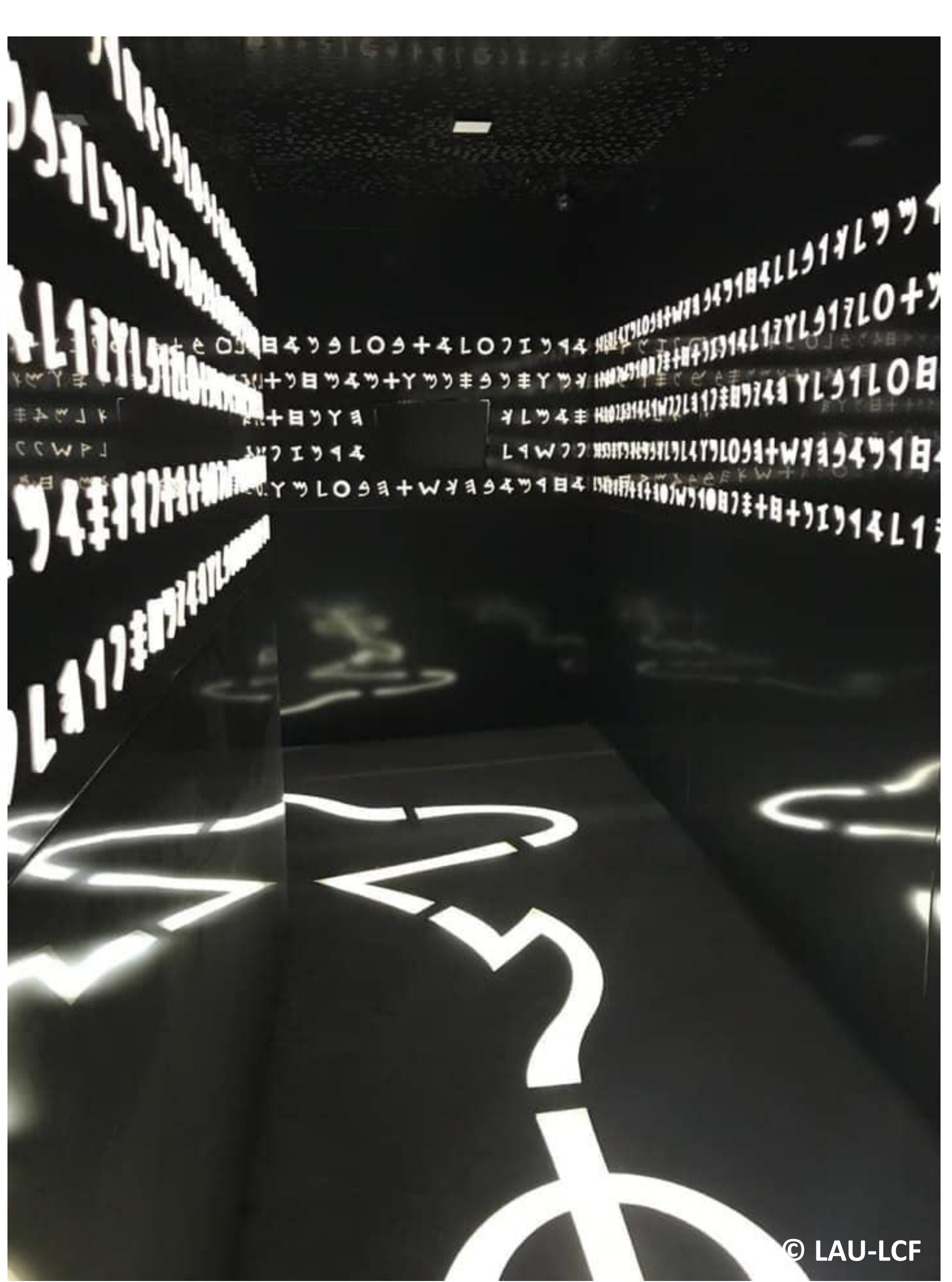
- Archaeological site – panoramic view
- Old Souk – panoramic view
- St. John the Baptist Church – panoramic view
- Medieval City Wall
- The Harbour & Harbour Towers – panoramic views (1 – 2)
- Al Sultan Ibrahim Adham Mosque
- Roman Road – panoramic view (Christmas 2014 – Christmas 2016)
- Roman Nymphaeum
- Saydet Al Bouebeh Church
- Sultan Abd Al Majid Mosque
- Byblos Site Museum
- The Alphabet Museum
- Umayyad Museum



Bronze Age City Fortification



The Roman Theater



The Alphabet Museum

JBEIL

Gastronomy

Like all cities on the Lebanese coast, Byblos is known for its seafood. Approximately 9 kilometers from Byblos, the town of Aamchit is known for its basketry and palm leaves. The "*Mwarra'a*" dessert at the "*Forn al Sabaya*" bakery is still made with traditional phyllo sheets filled with nuts and flavored with orange blossom water.

Accommodation



Labneh and olive, very well known in the Lebanese mesa












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May you wish to explore Lebanon by the Umayyad Route you may visit our the Umayyad digital museum at LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation and or Umayyad Route - Lebanon, (1st edition, October, 2016) , Editor: Andalusian Public Foundation El legado andalusí'.

Those who may wish to arrange for a guided tour along Smart Ways Lebanon, you may contact the Tour Guides Syndicate for Lebanon @tourguideslb as they will recommend a specific guide for your itinerary of choice.

Dr. Rachid Chamoun
Umayyad Route - Project Partner Coordinator
Advisor of the Lebanese Minister of Tourism to the EPA, Council of Europe
January 01, 2022